

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A receiving device of a monitoring system comprising:
  - a signal receiving circuit to wirelessly receive signals, wherein said signal receiving circuit's maximum wireless operating range is less than one kilometer;
  - a speaker to reproduce sounds represented by said signals;
  - an output inhibit circuit to reduce the output of said speaker for a predetermined period of time; and
  - an output inhibit initiator to activate said output inhibit circuit.
2. The receiving device of claim 1 further comprising:
  - an output inhibit time selector to select said predetermined period of time from a plurality of selectable times.
3. The receiving device of claim 1 wherein said output inhibit circuit is deactivated if said output inhibit initiator is selected while said output inhibit circuit is activated.
4. The receiving device of claim 2 wherein said output inhibit circuit is deactivated if said output inhibit initiator is selected while said output inhibit circuit is activated.

5. The receiving device of claim 1 wherein said predetermined period time is restarted if said output inhibit initiator is selected while said output inhibit circuit is activated.
6. The receiving device of claim 1 wherein said predetermined period of time is set to a period of time from 5 to 60 minutes in length.
7. The receiving device of claim 1 wherein said output inhibit initiator comprises a momentary pushbutton switch.
8. The receiving device of claim 1 wherein said signal receiving circuit operates outside the frequency range of 88 to 108 MHz and outside the frequency range of 5.3 to 16 kHz.
9. The receiving device of claim 1 further comprising:  
an output inhibit indicator to indicate when the output inhibit circuit is activated.
10. A receiving device of a monitoring system comprising:  
a signal receiving circuit to receive signals through a wired connection;  
a speaker to reproduce sounds represented by said signals;  
an output inhibit circuit to reduce the output of said speaker for a predetermined period of time; and  
an output inhibit initiator to activate said output inhibit circuit.

11. The receiving device of claim 10 further comprising:  
an output inhibit time selector to select said predetermined period of time from a plurality of selectable times.
12. The receiving device of claim 10 wherein said output inhibit circuit is deactivated if said output inhibit initiator is selected while said output inhibit circuit is activated.
13. The receiving device of claim 10 wherein said predetermined period time is restarted if said output inhibit initiator is selected while said output inhibit circuit is activated.
14. A receiving device of a monitoring system comprising:  
a signal receiving circuit to receive signals representing sounds;  
a speaker to reproduce said sounds;  
an output inhibit circuit to disable the output of said speaker for a predetermined period of time;  
an output inhibit initiator to activate and deactivate said output inhibit circuit when said output inhibit initiator is selected.
15. The receiving device of claim 14 further comprising:  
an output inhibit indicator to indicate when the output inhibit circuit is activated.

16. A monitoring system comprising:

a transmitter to detect sounds made by a child or pet being monitored and to transmit signals representative of said sounds; and

a receiver comprising

a signal receiving circuit to receive said signals from said transmitter and to amplify said signals,

a speaker to reproduce said sounds based on amplified signals from said signal receiving circuit; and,

an output inhibit circuit to reduce the volume of said speaker for a predetermined period of time.

17. The monitoring system of claim 16 wherein said signal receiving circuit operates outside the frequency range of 88 to 108 MHz and outside the frequency range of 5.3 to 16 kHz..

18. A method of using a monitoring system comprising the steps of:

placing a transmitting device in close proximity to a child or pet such that said transmitting device transmits signals representative of sounds made by said child or pet;

placing a receiving device with an audible output at a location remote from said child or pet; and

inhibiting said audible output on said receiving device for a predetermined period of time by making a momentary selection of a switch on said receiving device.

19. The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of establishing said predetermined period of time by selecting a period of time from a plurality of selectable times.

20. An improved residential baby monitor system comprising a receiver with a speaker, wherein the improvement comprises an output inhibit pushbutton on said receiver to disable the output of said speaker for a predetermined period of time.